



Plumb Line



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PROGRESS SO FAR

Hit The Deck!

Work is progressing nicely on the platform area in the new building! The framing and floor joists are all in place, and crews are putting on the floor decking.

This is another one of those efforts that takes a while; before we can finish the decking, we have to sort out and install a complicated maze of ductwork, power lines, and sound system wiring. There's a lot going on 'below decks' in the platform, and now is the time to think carefully and do things in just the right order so that the finished product will serve all our needs. When it's done, it will look like a plain wooden platform sitting on the floor, but if you peek inside it right now you'll know that there's an awful lot of work hidden beneath the top deck.

Once the platform is finished, framing crews can get to work on the changing rooms and restrooms along the edge of the building.

Furnaces Installed

If you wondered about the 'portholes' in the basement walls when we were building the basement, now's your chance to see them put to use. Several furnace and air-conditioning units have been installed in the basement, and they feed into the big air ducts that come in through the portholes. The whole setup looks pretty complicated, with ducts running in all directions and massive amounts of wiring to hook all the pieces together. Pieces of ductwork and odd-looking joints and fittings are stacked all over the basement, just waiting for experts to hook them together into a building-wide ventilation system.

The basement looks a little smaller than it did a few weeks ago; with equipment and pipes running all over the place, I can see why we needed to build a large basement. When all the stuff is put in place, we'll have a room full of humming equipment down there to keep the building running.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Lights! Action!

Pastor Archer and Bill Hillin were frantically cleaning out the basement the other day, gathering cardboard and hauling it to the dumpster. I wondered whether they were suffering from some rare disorder that compels men to clean out basements, so I observed them from a distance. (If whatever they had was contagious, I didn't want to take a chance. Who knows? I might find myself cleaning out MY basement -- a horrible thought!)

I was relieved to learn that they weren't just spring-cleaning the basement, however. They were preparing for the delivery of all the light fixtures for the new building! Later on, delivery trucks pulled up and unloaded stacks of boxes into the freshly-cleaned basement. There was a method to Pastor Archer's madness, after all -- the basement is the only place we've got that's big enough to store all that material.

Now, the challenge will be to run the conduit and wiring for all these fixtures so that we can turn them on!

BSU To The Rescue

Get ready!

Later on this week, a BSU (Baptist Student Union) group from Oklahoma will arrive to do some framing work on the new building and lead us in worship on Sunday. They'll be here with us for several days, and we're really looking forward to putting them all to work. When you want to get a lot done in a hurry, nothing beats an energetic bunch of college students. We're really glad these folks are willing to travel a great distance and spend some time with us.

We applaud BSU chapters nationwide for their efforts to show Christ's love on our college campuses. They live and work in an environment that is often hostile to Christianity, trying to reach out to seeking college students on a daily basis. Way to go, BSU!

Pulpit Options

With the platform taking shape in the new building, my thoughts turned to the furnishings that will go there. I think a pulpit makes a bold fashion statement, and so I offer some suggestions here (ideas stolen shamelessly from LEADERSHIP magazine):

PULPIT-O-MIRRORS (covered by mirrors on all sides): Sunday mornings truly become a time of reflection with this one! Its unique design keeps everyone on their best behavior and seems to hold their attention for some reason...

LEANING PULPIT OF PISA (leans sharply to one side): Inspired by a classic, this baby allows conservative or liberal pastors to accentuate the direction of their choice.

PTV (with a television embedded in the base): Your new PTV system will keep their focus to the fore! This high-tech innovation makes sure folks are listening to you with a series of silent clips from cartoons, sports, movies, etc. - holding in check today's short attention spans.

STEALTH PULPIT (all sharp angles and futuristic shapes): As super sleek a lectern as you're going to find, and highly conducive to sneaking across a point or two (or three!) on your congregation.

CHIA PULPIT (covered in live moss): As seen on TV! Here's a living reminder and inspiration for church growth.

YE OLDE GRANDFATHER PULPIT (with gigantic built-in grandfather clock): This handsome addition to any sanctuary -- with its clear and resonating chimes on the hour and half hour -- will help to eliminate all potential confusion over the initiation and summation of Sunday's proceedings.

PUL-PIT (on an elevator-like platform): This handy podium raises and lowers in correlation with one's emphasis on Heaven or Hell. (Mood lighting is optional.)

Hmmm.... On the other hand, Jesus seemed to do just fine while sitting on a rock or strolling down a beach. Don't tell the pulpit companies I said so, but I'm beginning to wonder if we need a pulpit at all! Our God is an awesome God, and something tells me He doesn't spend too much time worrying about furniture.

Working Hours

The work schedule varies with the weather, occasional hold-ups experienced while waiting for material, and other reasons. In general, there's something going on all the time weekdays and Saturdays unless the weather turns really bad.

For specific dates and times, ask around -- DeeDee Minne is helping Pastor Archer coordinate the volunteer effort, and you can also grab someone on the construction team to find out about day-to-day operations on the site.

Back Talk!

Got a question? Want to make an announcement? Want to recognize someone for a job well done? Get it in the paper! Contact **Philippe Nave** at **469-8327** (home) or **538-3150** (work) (send e-mail to pnave@lucent.com)

Contact Information

Here are some names and numbers you may need for project information and coordination:

DeeDee Minne **637-9841**

Volunteer coordination (construction, child care, etc.)

Dorothy Sorenson **469-4905**

Coordination of meals and work breaks